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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SEP 14 1999

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## State missions offering 'transforming lives'

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

"Transforming Lives" is the theme for the 1999 Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions (MLOSM). The prayer emphasis is set for Sept. 12-15, with the offering to be taken throughout the month of September.

"I am proud to be a part of this mission endeavor that goes across our state," said Kay Cassibry, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

"We've increased the goal to \$900,000 this year, which is a step on our way to setting a \$1,000,000 goal in the year 2000," Cassibry said.

Cassibry feels the growth in volunteer mission work through Mississippi Baptist partnerships and other mission projects has significantly affected the level of missions giving.

"When these men and women come back to their churches, and when you appeal for mission needs in Mississippi, they are more motivated to give," she said.

The 1999 theme is based on Jer. 18:1-4, the potter and the clay. — just as the potter transforms the clay into something beautiful, God is at work transforming lives. All across the state, Mississippi Baptists participate in God's work of transforming lives, and the MLOSM is lending a helping hand by providing needed funds for ongoing mission projects and new initiatives.

The MLOSM helps support work in nine areas. Included among the supported ministries are Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko and Camp Garaywa in Clinton (see pages six and seven in this issue for a listing of MLOSM allocations).

Cassibry said over 1,800 campers attended eight weeks of activities at Camp Garaywa this summer, with 171 spiritual decisions recorded. Fifty of those decisions were professions of faith.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Men's Ministry Department (formerly Brotherhood Department) reported 843 campers in six weeks of Royal Ambassadors/Challengers camp and two Lad/Dad weekend camps at Central Hills Retreat. There were 284 spiritual decision recorded, with 123 professions of faith.

The MLOSM is a yearly effort to fund mission work within Mississippi. It has been taken annually since 1903. In 1935 the offering was named for Margaret McRae Lackey, WMU corresponding secretary from 1912-30.

For more information on promoting the MLOSM in your church, or other information, con-

tact the WMU office at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3316, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

### Freshening up



Workers apply a fresh coat of paint Sept. 1 to the exterior of the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson. The paint job is one of the ongoing projects being undertaken to improve the appearance and utility of the 31-year-old Mississippi Street building that houses the agencies and programs of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the convention's board. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS — Christi Hathorne (center) works with her twin daughters Elizabeth (right) and Kathryn at the Mom and Me State Preschool Retreat held at Camp Garaywa in May of this year. Hathorne's husband Daniel is pastor of First Church, Coffeeville. Camp Garaywa is one of the ministries supported by the annual Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions. (BR special photo by Debbie Sills)

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### August CP nearly \$1.9M

Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,899,189 through the Cooperative Program (CP) in August, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

The August amount is \$84,578 more than that given in August of 1998. Also, the 1999 total of \$18,298,568 thus far is \$901,795, or 5.18%, more than the \$17,396,774 given for the same period of 1998.

The January through August 1999 total is \$559,974, or 3.16%, more than the pro rata budget of \$17,738,593.

The pro rata budget takes the total 1999 Cooperative Program budget of \$26,607,890, divides by 12 months in the year, and multiplies by the number of months elapsed.

The Cooperative Program helps fund such events as the five convention board-related programs in one weekend in September: a volunteer chaplaincy training event on Sept. 17; an interfaith witness conference on Sept. 17-18; an African American church leadership institute; Glorieta on the Gulf; and a GA mother/daughter overnight camp.

### SBC CP \$12M over budget

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — With one month left in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) fiscal year, SBC Cooperative Program (CP) receipts are more than \$12 million over budget and more than \$7 million over the same period a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

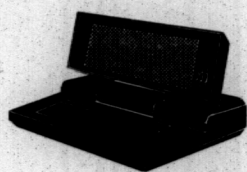
For the month of August 1999, CP receipts totaled \$14,046,612, slightly less than the same month a year ago of \$14,185,671, a decrease of \$139,058 or .98%. For the fiscal year to date, CP receipts totaled \$154,410,331 compared to the same period last year of \$147,113,289, an increase of \$7,297,041 or 4.96%.

Designated gifts also are up over a year ago, \$149,357,163 compared to last year of \$148,044,621, an increase of \$1,312,541 or .89%. Designated gifts for the month of August 1999 were \$4,029,330 compared to August 1998 of \$3,680,315, an increase of \$349,015 or 9.48%.

For the 1998-99 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the required budget figure for 11 months is \$142,088,579 which has been surpassed by \$12,321,751 in CP receipts for the year to date.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# Rethinking the unthinkable

**T**he unthinkable happened last week — unthinkable not because it couldn't happen, but because we have chosen not to think about it.

A young man was convicted and sentenced to prison for having sexual contact with children while serving as a youth worker at a Mississippi Baptist church. News reports indicate that the 23-year-old pedophile had been able to move freely from church to church, and that the sexual contacts occurred not in a dark side room or closet but brazenly on the back pew of the sanctuary and at church social functions.

The young man might still be getting away with his crimes against the little ones, except for the fact that he bragged about his exploits to an undercover federal law enforcement officer who was posing as a child in an Internet chat room.

No one knows for sure the number of children — and churches — victimized by this particular criminal. No one knows for sure the number of children — and churches — victimized on a yearly basis by such criminals.

One fact is certain, however. Some churches make it much too easy for such people to gain access to children, and the results can be disastrous. We'd best wake up to that realization.

To be fair, there probably isn't a Mississippi Baptist church in existence that doesn't struggle to find workers each year for the children and youth ministries. That in itself is a disgrace, but an editorial subject for another day.

Couple church members' lack of interest in children and youth ministries with the fact that there are few higher concentra-

tions of victims to be found anywhere, and the church becomes a rich environment for pedophiles.

Don't be foolish. Just because you don't know any pedophiles (at least you *think* you don't know any), doesn't mean they aren't out there preying on the most vulnerable members of our society.

It's sick, but it's occurring with increasing frequency across the U.S.

Churches must stand against such predatory conduct, and provide a safe haven for those whom we seek to teach about Christ. There are readily available means by which we can accomplish those ends.

Linda Reeves, consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School Department, can assist churches in conducting safe activities for children.

She can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3294. E-mail: lreeves@mbcb.org.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) has been authorized for some time now to process criminal background checks for sex offenses — a service available free of charge to all cooperating Mississippi Baptist churches.

As one church preschool director recently said, "You'd be surprised how many 'new' church members who are pushing to work with children in our church, withdraw their names when I mention the criminal background check." It works.

For more information on the background checks, contact Elizabeth K. Holmes, CAC office manager, at the address listed above.



Her telephone number is (601) 292-3331.

As the events of last week have once again proven, we need to get serious about protecting the children entrusted to the care of our churches.

While they are our responsibility, we must ensure that they are safe, that nothing distracts them from learning about their Savior, and that nothing turns them against him.

There are proven ways to do that, and trained people willing to help. There are no excuses. It's that simple, isn't it?

It's time to rethink the unthinkable.

## GUEST OPINION:



*Will we see you at  
the pole?*

By Don Lum, youth consultant  
MBCB Evangelism Department

**T**he year was 1990; the town, Burleson Texas. A small group of teenagers came together for a Disciple Now Weekend. Little did they know how powerfully God was about to move. As God's Spirit moved among them they became burdened for their friends. Compelled to pray, they drove to three different schools that night. Not knowing exactly what to do, they went to the flagpoles and prayed for their friends, schools, and leaders. That weekend, God planted a vision in the hearts of those teens.

In the following weeks that vision became a challenge and ultimately a plan. See You At the Pole (SYATP) became a reality on September 12, 1990, when over 45,000 teenagers in four states met at school flagpoles to pray.

In ten short years, that grass-roots challenge has become God-sized in proportion. Now, more than 3 million students from all 50 states and 20 countries participate in SYATP. Simply put, students from every corner of the planet are responding to God and taking seriously the challenge to pray.

Here in Mississippi alone, over 20,000 students gather on 200-plus campuses to pray and celebrate their relationship with Jesus Christ.

As a result of students praying with each other, of God working as only he can, and adults who are willing to pour

their lives into helping teens grow in their faith and commitment to him, we now have more "campus missionaries" than ever before, committed Christian students who are willing and ready to walk the walk and talk the talk. They are answering the challenge to take the gospel message of God's love to their world.

During my 20-plus years of

youth ministry, I have had the unique privilege of being in the middle of an evolving youth culture. I've been able to watch numerous committed young Christians grow up. I watched, prayed, and cheered as they genuinely impacted their world. As I think about those teens, I'm reminded of a quote by J. Edwin Orr: "Spiritual awakening does not come like a

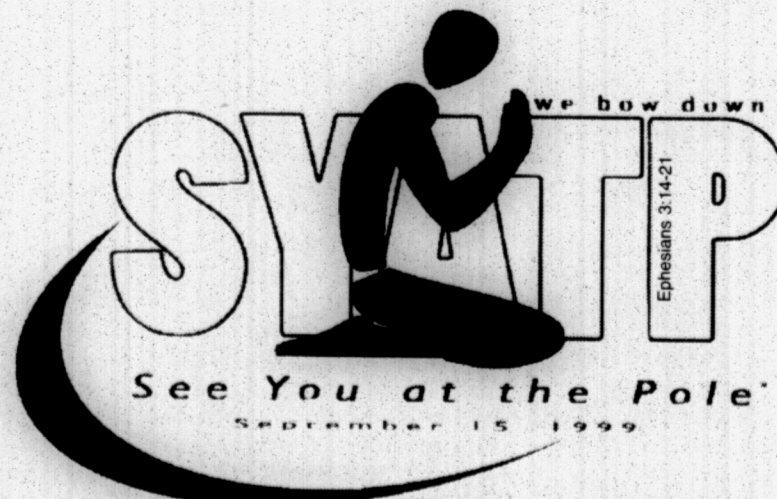
lightning bolt out of the blue — normally a decade or so of preparation precedes a major national revival."

It has been 10 years since God planted that vision in the minds of those teenagers in Burleson, Texas. Now teens all across the state of Mississippi, the nation, and other parts of the planet are implementing it on their school campuses every day. More students than ever before are taking up the challenge and example left by those who have gone before them — the challenge to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to every teenager.

Wednesday, September 15 is the date for See You At the Pole 1999. Students all across our state will gather to pray publicly and boldly because they desire to see Jesus Christ change lives of fellow students and faculty.

Mississippi Baptist, pray for our teenagers. Pray for those who desire to be a vessel of God's love, and pray for the many who have not yet experienced the love and forgiveness offered only through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray for our many teachers, administrators, coaches, and counselors who influence young lives every day.

Together, let's call on our Lord who promises to answer and tell us great and unsearchable things we do not know. (Jer. 33:3)





# Southern Baptists at helm of quake relief

ISTANBUL, Turkey (BP) — Southern Baptists have set up two field kitchens to minister to survivors of an Aug. 17 earthquake that killed at least 14,000 people and left 600,000 people homeless.

Two five-man teams staffed by volunteers from Texas Baptist Men are supervising the operation of the kitchens in tent cities in Adapazari and Golcuk.

Approval also has been received to set up feeding operations in Izmit and Yalova.

The kitchens can serve up to 5,000 meals twice a day to residents of the tent cities.

Evangelicals in Turkey hope to set up community center ministries near the kitchens to offer children's programs and medical services.

A team of 15 Southern Baptist volunteers from Georgia arrived in Turkey Aug. 29. A five-member team from Ohio arrived the following day.

Both teams will be working in the feeding operation, distributing relief supplies, and helping with medical and media work, according to coordinators of the Southern Baptist relief effort.

During the last week of August, a team of more than 200 Christian volunteers from nine countries delivered relief supplies — including diapers, toilet paper, antiseptics, and toys — to families in Izmit and Adapazari whose homes were destroyed in the earthquake.

In addition, the group hand manufactured and set up more than 1,000 six-person tents for the homeless.

A shoe drive has been launched to collect footwear from Istanbul residents for people in areas struck hardest by the earthquake.

With the help of Southern Baptist relief funds, Hope International Church in Istanbul purchased a water truck to deliver clean drinking water to needy cities.

Baptist workers also have made water purification units available to the Turkish government, if the need for those becomes apparent.

Southern Baptist relief offi-

cials immediately dispatched \$100,000 to workers in the area when news of the catastrophe broke.

When people are suffering so badly, Christians are compelled to follow the example and teachings of Jesus and share the hope of the gospel by ministering to human needs, said one of the Texas Baptist volunteers.

"Jesus always met people's physical needs, but he also ministered to them," said Mel Goodwin, who leads the kitchen team in Golcuk.

"He showed concern and love. Just showing these people that someone out there still cares about them after they lost so many of their family members and everything they own, it'll lift them up," he said.

Contributions designated for Turkey relief efforts may be sent to Southern Baptist World Relief, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.



**HUNGRY** — Baptist volunteers from Georgia and Ohio joined two teams from Texas in field kitchens at Golcuk and Adapazari, Turkey. The kitchens can serve up to 5,000 meals twice a day to residents of the tent cities filled by some of Turkey's 600,000 homeless people. (BP special photo)



**DEVASTATION** — Damage caused by the Turkey earthquake staggers the imagination, report Southern Baptists involved in relief efforts in Turkey. "The first day, we drove to the damaged neighborhoods in Istanbul. It was mind boggling," said one volunteer. "We talked with one man who lived on the third floor. He was shocked to walk out his front door and discover he was now on the ground floor. We were all just overcome by the magnitude of the tragedy." (BP photo by Donald Martin)

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

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## Parents called to pray

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — This year's Sept. 15 See You at the Pole observance on secondary school campuses will be accompanied by another prayer event the night before — but this time it is the adults who will be doing the praying. At 7 p.m. Sept. 14, parents and other concerned adults are being urged to gather at public school campuses across the country for Campus Prayer Journeys, an organized prayer effort directed toward students, teachers, and administrators.

"Combined with See You at the Pole, this effort will get the entire church praying that God will make a difference in the campuses of our land. And that's important," said Robert E. "Bob" Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), in a promotional video for the effort.

Campus Prayer Journey began as a project of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in response to the rise of school violence, drawing more than 10,000 parents to campuses across the state.

This year it is being promoted nationally through the North American Mission Board.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

The Mississippi Association for the Deaf names Mignonne Tadlock of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Patron of the Year. Tadlock is director of the youth department for the deaf at Broadmoor Church, and also serves as a freelance interpreter for the deaf.

### 20 years ago

Joe Triplett, minister of pastoral care at First Church, Jackson, is presented the Governor's Distinguished Mississippian Award by Gov. Cliff Finch. "God has apparently chosen him to teach us all how to face death," said Finch. Triplett was diagnosed with cancer nearly a year ago.

### 50 years ago

Cherry Creek Church in Pontotoc County, dedicates a new brick sanctuary debt-free. Sunday School superintendant H. O. Leavell is the nephew of the late G. B. Gambrell, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who was converted at Cherry Creek Church.



# Enrollment rising at William Carey College

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Increased enrollment, improved facilities, new faculty, and a full schedule of activities greeted students returning to the campuses of William Carey College (WCC).

"People are beginning to realize that William Carey College offers a quality product. They like the personal attention they get

increased enrollment this fall and as the students return to the campus, they are delighted with the renovations that have been done in both the men's and women's dormitories and other facilities on both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses," says Van Oliphant, executive vice president.

On the Hattiesburg campus both women's residence halls, Bass Hall and Ross Hall, were renovated. New carpet, floor tiles, paint, and plumbing fixtures were installed. New beds and furniture pieces were purchased to refurbish the dorms as well.

Other campus improvements include a new roof on Bryant Hall, and electrical improvements throughout the campus.

"We are taking first steps to providing additional services to our students in the near future," says J. C. Hahn, director of facilities, grounds, and telecommunications.

On the Gulfport campus, additional classroom space was made available with the relocation of the faculty offices. Enrollment in the master of business administration program is up significantly. The master of education program continues to attract outstanding teachers according to Denise Brown, academic dean of the coast campus.

Brenda Waldrup, vice president of student services, contributes the increase in enrollment to several factors. "Retention has improved, in part because we are offering several new programs."

"As a new student, I was excited to see all the back-to-school hoopla. It seemed as though everywhere I turned there was another opportunity for me to meet other students, faculty, and staff," says Jonathan Pope Evans, a transfer student.

The Baptist Student Union's (BSU) Survival Weekend '99, held to celebrate the

beginning of college life for freshman and a new college life for transfer students was a success, according to Tim Glaze, Baptist Student Union (BSU) director.

"Our goal is to get students interested in the Baptist Student Union and to become involved in the long term," said Glaze.

Activities included seminars on surviving with a roommate, surviving on a budget, and achieving academic success, area church tours, movies, and games.

BSU activities continued with Global Opportunity Missions and Service Fair on August 31 and Ichtus Week in September. Weekly activities include Priority Lunch, an opportunity for commuters, and Main Event, consisting of worship and entertainment.

"I think one of the things that makes the BSU so special is that if for some reason I can't be at one event, there is another scheduled that I can attend. The BSU makes it easy for me to be involved as much as I can," says Leslie Barker, a junior from Clinton. "I like participating in events where God is given the glory. The comfortable Christian atmosphere at Carey is one of the reasons I am here."

Service Blitz, part of Project Hope sponsored by the Student Government Association, is held the first Saturday of the year. Service Blitz allows students to participate in service projects in the community.

Other activities included Faculty Talk, held in homes of faculty to allow students to discuss issues in an informal setting, Y-Night Out, and a cookout for all students.

Mary Beth Bankson, director of student activities, summed up the week by saying, "Tremendously successful, wonderful participation. This is the most exciting time of year on a college campus."



**MAKING PLANS** — Mary Beth Bankston (left), William Carey College student activities director, and Stephanie Stringer, student director of Project Hope, map out their ideas for the next Service Blitz to be conducted by William Carey College students. (BR special photo)

here. They like the opportunities for service, the opportunities for leadership, and the fact that we are grounded in a personal faith that is important to a lot of people," says Tom Huebner, director of admissions.

The increased enrollment for the fall trimester of the 1999-2000 academic year points to that as well. "Carey is enjoying

## Mississippi College reaching near-capacity

CLINTON, Miss. — Mississippi College (MC) began its 174th session August 21 with the move-in and registration of incoming students.

"We're looking forward to another great school year," said President Howell W. Todd. "The freshmen and transfer students are a terrific addition to our current students judging from comments by our faculty and staff."

Todd is beginning his sixth year as president of MC.

This year, MC has a near-capacity crowd, quite an accomplishment considering the recent addition of 472 beds with the completion of the residential wings of the women's new residence hall.

"The sleeping rooms are ready and the young ladies have moved in," said Todd, "but the courtyard and connecting lobby with Mary Nelson Hall are still under construction and should be completed later in the semester."

The new residence hall brings the total of on campus residents to approximately 1,600.

Also completed in time for the beginning of the fall semester was the math, computer science, and chemistry building that connects Hederman Science and Self Hall. The space houses science and computer labs, as well as classrooms.

Future and ongoing projects include renovating Lowery Hall, which houses the School of Education, and the renovation of the upper floor of the B.C. Rogers Student Center.

"Mississippi College is committed to continuing our updating, remodeling, and building of the university's infrastructure. The student population

growth over the past four years has placed considerable demands on housing, classrooms, faculty, and meeting and entertaining areas on campus. We are in the process of enlarging and reappportioning the spaces in the student center to accommodate a larger food court and meeting rooms for campus and guest activities.

"In addition, the Mississippi College Board of Trustees has decided that the needs of the university for large functions, including alumni and student events, can no longer be met using the current president's home.

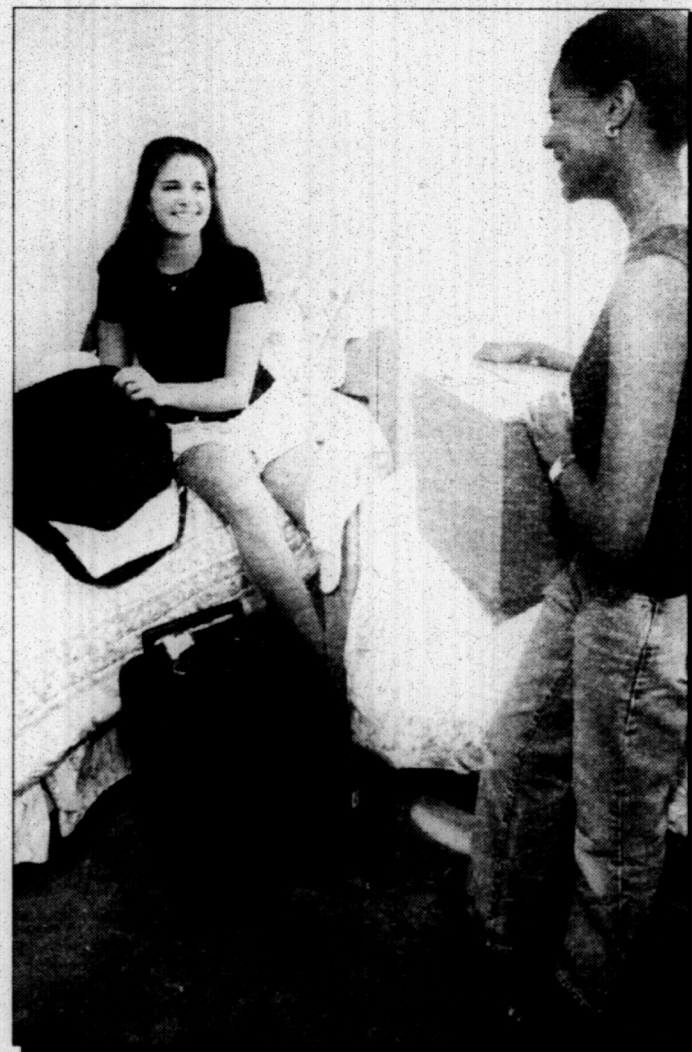
"The board has decided to construct a home that they believe can meet the school's needs for many years to come and have personally guaranteed the raising of the money necessary to pay for the project," said Patty Welch, MC public relations director.

MC offers a strong liberal arts curriculum plus professional schools of business, nursing, education, law, and the college of arts and sciences.

MC recently learned that it had again been selected for inclusion in the 2000 edition of U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges issue. Like last year, MC ranked in the top tier of southern regional universities.

"Our mission as an institution remains the same. We are dedicated to preparing men and women intellectually, spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically to live balanced, satisfying lives, perform successfully in their chosen profession, and serve their fellow man.

Everything we do is designed to accomplish that end," said Todd.



**SETTLING IN** — Jennifer Burnham (left) and McKenzie Givhan prepare to begin their freshman year at Mississippi College in Clinton by unpacking in their room in the women's new residence hall. (BR special photo)

## Christians near 2 billion, study suggests

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — The number of Christian people in the world will pass the 2 billion mark in the year 2000, say religious statisticians David Barrett and Todd Johnson, based in Richmond, Va.

Christians already number 1.99 billion, meaning that one third of the world's 6 billion people are Christians, Barrett and Johnson said. The Christian designation is applied to Roman Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Anglicans, Charismatics, and Pentecostals.

Muslims are the second-largest world religion, with 1.19 billion adherents, followed by Hindus, 774 million; non-religious, 768 million; Buddhists, 359 million; tribal religions, 252 million; atheists, 151 million; new religions, 101 million; Sikhs, 22.7 million; and Jews, 14.2 million.



# Blue Mountain College begins new session

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Miss. — Blue Mountain College (BMC) officially launched its 1999-2000 academic session when the dormitories opened for students on Aug. 29.

The college begins the 127th annual session with excitement and great anticipation. Faculty and staff are excited about the opportunities to assist in developing the talents and abilities of the students who enroll.

The enthusiasm of the new students and the commitment of the returning students always adds a special dimension to BMC each year.

Orientation and registration were held Monday, Aug. 30, with classes beginning Tuesday, Aug. 31.

During orientation, students met faculty and administrative staff. Students also had the opportunity to meet with advisors prior to registration.

The academic orientation and first week of classes is supplemented with activities sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA), Baptist Student Union, and Ministerial Alliance.

James Andre and Kimberly Walker are two new additions to the faculty this year.

Andre returns to the Department of Speech and Theater after serving at Shelby State University. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Quachita Baptist University and a master of arts and master of fine arts degrees from the University of Memphis.

Walker joins the science department after working in private industry. She received her bachelor of science and master of science degrees from Mississippi State University.

The Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored a welcome party at the Paschal Student Center Sunday evening after worship services. It provided the opportunity for students to get acquainted with the SGA

council, faculty, staff, and other students.

The Baptist Student Union (BSU) hosted a welcome party on Monday evening with the theme, "Knock, Knock," based on Revelation 3:20.

A scavenger hunt was the main activity. The evening also provided time for students to meet the BSU council and to learn how they can become involved during the year.

The BSU endeavors to help students grow spiritually as they continue to grow mentally and socially during the year by providing regular Bible study programs and worship experiences, as well as many opportunities for students to use their gifts and talents in ministry.

The SGA council also coordinates rush week activities to introduce the students to the different societies.

Each society plans special activities from sunrise to sunset on their day. The society wakes up the students, decorates the campus, and provides flowers for the tables at lunch.

The day ends with a formal and informal program including skits, monologues, and songs about the society.

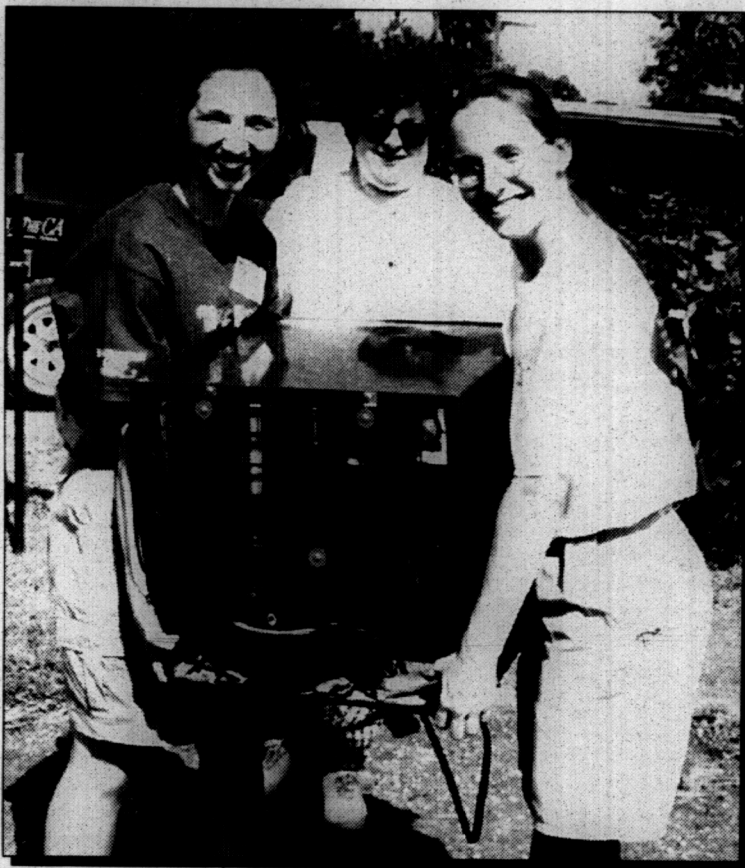
Rush week concludes with Pledge Night, when new students decide which of the three societies they wish to join.

The societies provide the students with service opportunities, an intramural sports program, and camaraderie throughout their college years.

The President's Reception was held on Wednesday, Sept. 1, at Armstrong, the President's home. Refreshments were served by the SGA Council.

The prospects for 1999-2000 are very exciting. The beginning of each new year at BMC is a reminder of the opportunities the faculty and staff has to serve the students who study on campus.

We are grateful for the support of Mississippi Baptists in making this opportunity available to the students, and for strengthening the program of Christian higher education at BMC.



MOVING IN — A parent looks on as Kristy Brashier (left) of Bartlett, Tenn., and Amy Crocker (right) of Pocahontas, Tenn., unload a refrigerator during Move-In Day Aug. 29 at Blue Mountain College. The school's Baptist Student Union and Student government Association were available to help students move in. (BR special photo)

## SEVEN THOUSAND NERVES

There was an ad on the radio for a popular walking shoe, but at the time I didn't realize what the ad was actually promoting. The ad asked something to the effect, "Are your feet happy?" It went on to say that there are over 7,000 nerves connecting your feet to your head.

Now, I personally have no way of counting to know whether there are 700, 7,000, or 700,000 nerves, but assuming that the advertising folks are at least in part governed by some laws related to truthfulness in advertising, the possibility is that there are about 7,000 connecting nerves.

If your feet are not happy, your head will not be happy! That is a fact. I'll tell you what you do — you drop a heavy weight of some type on your foot, or stump your toe, or walk beyond your normal tolerance level, and see what happens. More than likely your hands will be dispatched by your head to either hold or rub your tired, aching "tootsies."

No wonder the Apostle Paul wanted us to understand that the church is the "body of Christ" — Jesus is the head and we, each one of us as individual believers, make up the "body." Each of us, with our different gifts given by the Holy Spirit; each of us with different functions, capabilities, and muscle



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

structure; each of us fit in and form the "body of Christ."

There are people who are *eyes*, and have vision far beyond the other parts of the body, and the eyes are needed. Some are *ears*, and are able to pick up the sounds around us, whether sounds of distress or celebration, more than any other part of the body. Some are *hands*, and still others are *feet*. Yet, all parts of the body are controlled by the *head* and so it is with the "body of Christ." While it means much more than this, let me point out two exciting truths:

1. Every member of the body is important. Stop and think for a moment what life would be like if everything else was normal, but you had no *hands*. Just think of all the tasks you could not do, the doors you could not open, the food you could not prepare, the warm handshake you could not experience, and the many different things you could not lift.

Stop and think for a moment

if you could not *see*. Your life would be drastically changed in a moment. Movements by the body that were so quick and without thought to get from one place to another would suddenly be cautious, dangerous, and limited. That is what happens when the church visionaries are gone.

Now, think about the *feet*. Rather than thinking about taking away both feet, just stop and contemplate one foot missing. With one foot gone, life and life in the church is severely hampered. Every part of the body is essential for the body to do what it ought to do to stay healthy.

2. When any part of the body is injured or deficient it becomes painful and awkward to the head. Probably most of us do not give much consideration to the alarm and even the pain that comes to the head when a part of the body is missing or is not functioning. When one body part stops doing what it is designed to do it not only affects all of the other parts, it

especially affects the head.

Back to the shoe ad that I heard on the radio — I do not know the purpose of all 7,000 nerves that connect the foot to the head, but I know that each must be important. I suppose one, or maybe a dozen, enable the toes to wiggle. I suppose some of them enable us to keep our balance when we are walking and some of them, no doubt, are the tickle nerves on the bottom of your feet that can cause a baby to grin and giggle, or an older person to "lighten up" with the touch of a feather.

The head is made glad by happy feet. No doubt our Lord Jesus is also delighted when the feet are functioning correctly or distressed when they are in pain. The feet, comprising probably less than 10% of the total body, provides virtually all of the mobility for the body. When the feet are not working, the head hurts. The rest of the body is severely limited and virtually all the other muscles begin to deteriorate from lack of use.

The radio ad indicated that if you will buy a particular brand of shoe, your feet and head will be happy. For the body of Christ, no doubt, if the feet would receive and respond to the signals given by the head through the 7,000 nerve connections, all the body "in-between" would be happy, helpful, and healthy.

Let's get moving!

## Lineberger tapped for Texas post

DALLAS (BP) — Phil Lineberger, a former president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) and pastor of Williams Trace Church, Sugar Land, Texas, has been nominated as the next executive director of the state convention.

The BGCT executive board will consider Lineberger's nomination in a called meeting Sept. 14 in Dallas. If elected, he will succeed William M. Pinson Jr., executive director since 1983, who will retire Jan. 31, 2000. Lineberger, 53, was selected by an 18-member search committee named by convention officers and the executive board.

Lineberger was president of the BGCT from 1989-91 and vice president in 1988-89. He is a current member of the BGCT executive board.



# Margaret Lackey Season

September

*Transforming Lives: The*

## Lackey Offering helps church find new life after fire

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

In July 1998, Midway Church in George Association was struck by lightning and subsequently burned. All that remained were a few walls and a fragile fellowship.

However, with help from the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions (MLOSM), a year later Midway Church has made a comeback and members envision a bright future.

Located on Howell-Tanner Chapel Road just about a mile from the Mississippi-Alabama state line, Midway Church was already struggling. The fire seemed to be the last straw. With only one family remaining, they turned to George-Greene Association

Missions Director John Henry.

Henry made two contacts. First, he contacted Don Wilson of the Strategic Initiatives Department (formerly the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"As a matter of fact," Henry said, "Don Wilson was in this area two days after the fire, and we went to see the church. He immediately began helping us get a mobile chapel."

Secondly, Henry called Walter and Deania Johnson, former International Mission Board missionaries to the Philippines, who lived nearby.

"John Henry called me and said, 'Walter, I need you.' He said he wanted me to come to Midway, and I said 'no,'" Johnson said.

However, after prayer, Johnson felt the Lord wanted him to accept the invitation but Midway was unable to afford a pastor, so Johnson was able to get a pastoral aid grant from MLOSM.

In November 1998, the mobile chapel arrived and was placed behind the new building under construction where the old building had stood.

"Getting the trailer was a tremendous boost for the congregation," Johnson said.

When they moved into the trailer, attendance immediately picked up to about 20 or more on a regular basis, Johnson indicated.

For five months the church met in the mobile chapel while contractors completed the new building. On March 21, 1999, Midway Church occupied their beautiful new facilities. They were immediately able to expand their Sunday School organization to be fully graded.

Now they are averaging over

40 a week in attendance, and they have a long range planning committee at work.

For the first time, the membership is receiving The Baptist Record. The church had stopped giving to the Cooperative Program, and we started," Johnson said.

"This church has made a real come back," Johnson said. "It is at least three times as strong as it was before the fire, and we expect to experience even more growth."

In the foyer of the church is a large plate glass window above the front doors. Sandblasted into the glass is a cross lighted from behind. Visible from the road in front of the church, it stands as a symbol of the new life at Midway Church — new life made possible by the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions.



NEW LIFE — Pastor Walter Johnson stands behind the sign for the rebuilt Midway Church in George County. Thanks in part to help received from the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, Midway church has made a strong comeback. (Photo by Carl M. White)

### 1998 Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions

#### TOTAL GIFTS

1. First, Jackson . . . . . \$39,947.94
2. Broadmoor, Jackson . . 32,203.11
3. First, Brookhaven . . . 15,248.05
4. First, Clinton . . . . . 15,021.59
5. First, Philadelphia . . . . 9826.00
6. Alta Woods, Jackson . . 9,617.04
7. First, Brandon . . . . . 9,297.00
8. First, Gulfport . . . . . 9,148.45
9. Calvary, Tupelo . . . . . 9,061.44
10. Harrisburg, Tupelo . . . 8,093.77

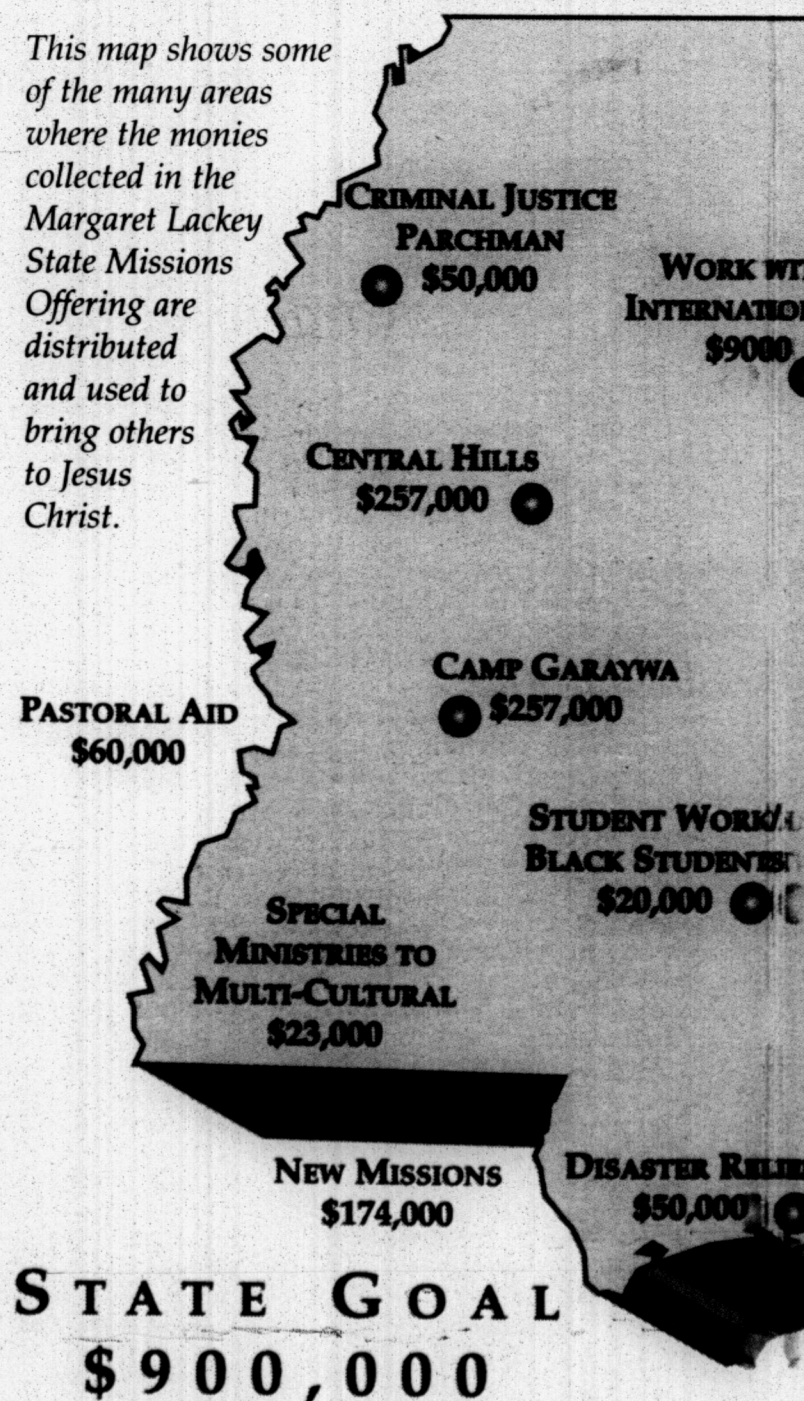
#### PER MEMBER GIFTS

1. Oak Grove, Lake . . . . . \$94.12
2. Beulah, Inverness . . . . . 25.27
3. Grace, Richland . . . . . 18.91
4. Bay Springs, Bay Springs . 17.92
5. First, Philadelphia . . . . . 17.83
6. Cayce, Byhalia . . . . . 17.65
7. New Montpelier, Woodland 17.56
8. Providence, Meadville . . 17.44
9. Calvary, Jackson . . . . . 16.91
10. Knoxo, Tylertown . . . . . 15.44

Source: MBCB Computer Information Services

## MINISTRY AREA

This map shows some of the many areas where the monies collected in the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering are distributed and used to bring others to Jesus Christ.





# Season of Prayer for State Missions

12-15, 1999

## Mississippi Missions Story

### Prison ministry building on Lackey offering support

By Tim Nicholas, director  
Office of Communication

The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions (MLOSM) helped bring about an out-of-the-ordinary baptism when a special group of people attended — the victims of the person being baptized.

He was a young man who had assaulted and beaten some of the people, but they had come to watch and forgive. There was no question in their hearts and minds that his was a turned-around life.

After the baptism, the church's deacon chairman stood to tell the young man that he'd been voted into the church's membership.

The scene would be heart-tugging enough if it had taken place in the sanctuary of a Baptist church, but this baptism was in a cattle trough inside the gates of the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman.

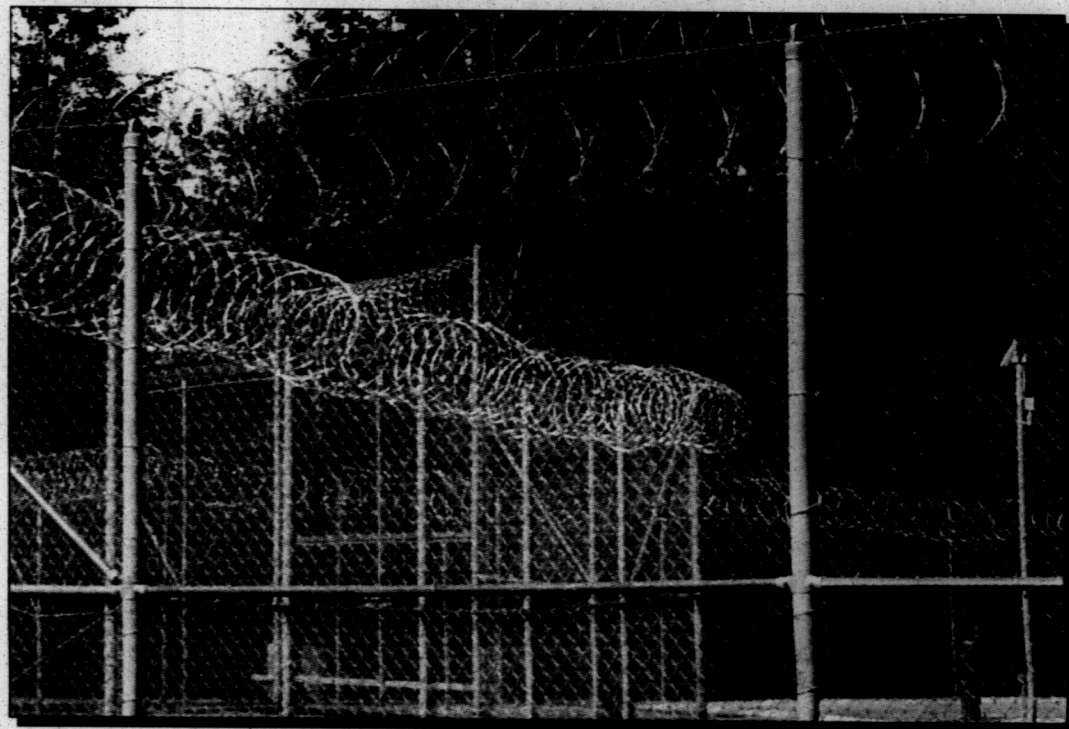
The young man made a profession of faith while enrolled in a discipleship program as an inmate at the penitentiary. Baptist volunteers who regularly pass through the gates of Parchman taught that discipleship class.

Charles Jones is the organizer of the program, which is active in virtually every section of the prison. Jones works as a Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) staffer directing the Parchman Prison Ministry. He also serves as pastor of Linn Church, Doddsville.

At Parchman, Jones provides ministry to the staff and their families as well as coordinating volunteers in evangelism and discipleship. He conducts employee ministry and chaplaincy work at other regional prisons.

Neron Smith, consultant in the MBCB Strategic Initiatives Department (formerly Missions Extension and Association Administration), serves as state program leader for criminal justice ministries. He is co-developer and supervisor of the program.

Smith and Jones have contributed to "Bringing Shalom: Leading Criminal Justice Ministry," a textbook by LifeWay



Press of Nashville, on developing prison ministries.

"I'm surprised everyday at what God is doing in every area of this thing," said Jones. He said he walked into the Issaquena County Correctional Facility at Mayersville and found a list of 33 men who had requested baptism as their profession of faith in Christ.

Shortly thereafter, 42 men were baptized and two new discipleship groups were started in the prison system.

That list came out of a discipleship and evangelism program led by volunteers.

At Parchman another discipleship program was to be started in a pre-release unit. "The list (of those who signed up for the course) had been given to us two months ago, but we had to wait," said Jones.

He added, "We went to the unit and about half the guys had been moved, but we ended up with 14 in our group. That shows how interest-

ed and receptive these guys are to the gospel."

Jones said in the Regimented Inmate Discipline (RID) program, which is a military-type 150-day program, "We generally have 14 to 16 participate in our discipleship class. Yesterday, we had 29 show up."

The discipleship classes are based on a series of textbooks, all provided by the MLOSM.

Those textbooks include a Bible designed for prison use, "Survival Kit for New Christians," and "Experiencing God." There are five other studies with selected discipleship materials.

The teachers are volunteers, like Walter Ballard, retired director of missions for Panola Association in Batesville.

"I don't believe anyone can do Parchman ministry without becoming more sensitive to the needs of people and become more compassionate," said Ballard. "Some are here because they thought no one gave a hoot one way or another. They need someone to say 'I love you.'"

Courtney Selvey, Ballard's successor in Panola as director of missions, is also a volunteer. "I believe some of these guys are changing," said Selvey.

"It is my prayer that they become a father, a mentor, an example in their community—something that they didn't get when they were young," he said.

The Baptist ministry is now in eleven prisons. The MLOSM made it possible to purchase 2,260 Bibles and 3,204 study guides last year.

So far, a total of 483 inmates has been baptized.

### A passion for Mississippi missions

Margaret McRae Lackey was born in Copiah County in about 1850, the fifth of nine children born to James and Elizabeth Lackey.

She grew up doing what most girls in Mississippi did in that era. She played games, went to school, and did her chores at home. She went on to attend Hillman College in Clinton where she studied to be a teacher. She later taught for many years in Mississippi schools.

Lackey, who never married, had a deep love for missions that spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ to people who had never heard of the Savior. She used her teaching skills to help the children in her church share her love for missions.

She also enjoyed writing poems and mission study materials so that other Christians could understand the importance of missions.

In 1912, Lackey became the first paid leader of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Her passion for missions was obvious to all who met her.

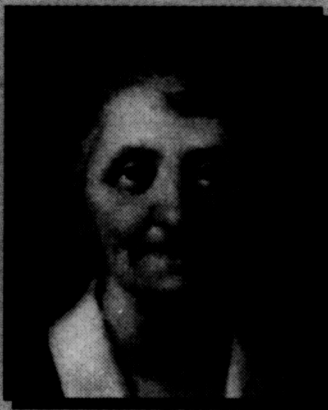
She once wrote, "Sisters, we have done passing well this year. But, oh, the untouched multitude of women and children in Mississippi whose souls are crying silently yet know not for what they are crying."

Lackey retired in 1930 from her position as corresponding secretary of Mississippi WMU.

In 1903, Mississippi WMU began a special annual observance to emphasize the importance of state missions. That special observance eventually grew into the Season of Prayer for State Missions.

In 1935, the offering taken during the Season of Prayer for State Missions was named in honor of the person who today remains one of Mississippi Baptists' outstanding leaders: the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions.

For more information on the 1999 Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, contact Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3316 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Portrait of Lackey

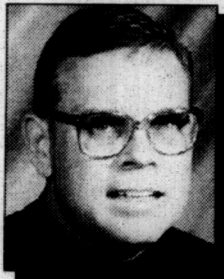


## James Young, pastor, dies

Funeral services for James H. "Jimmy" Young Jr., pastor of Hope Church, Neshoba Association, were held Aug. 7. Burial was in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery in Rankin County. Young, 51, died Aug. 4 in the Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

Young was born and reared in the Tuscola Community of Leake County and made his home in Rankin County for 27 years. He taught at Tucker and Conehatta Choctaw Tribal Schools for the past two years. He was pastor of New Hope Church, Leake County, for a number of years and had been a member and pastor of Hope Church for 10 years.

Survivors include his wife Sarah Young of Philadelphia; daughter, Rebekah Young of Philadelphia; two sons, James Hubert "Jim" Young, III of Philadelphia, and Peter Lawrence Young of Philadelphia; three brothers, Steven Floyd Young of Sandhill, Daniel Ray Young of Carthage, and David Lee Young of Florence.



Young

**1999 Annual Fall Festival** will be held at Flowood Church, Brandon, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., on Sept. 11. G. R. Ricky Gray is pastor. For more information call the church at (601) 992-6464.

**Jerusalem Church, Attala Association**, held a special service on Aug. 29 to dedicate its recently refurbished sanctuary. The two-year project included installation of a choir loft, remodeling of the sanctuary, recovering of church pews, installation of stained glass windows, carpet, vinyl siding, and a steeple. Special guest for the occasion included Bobby Waggoner, director of missions, Attala Association; and Sammy Ray, former pastor. Johnny Parks is pastor.

**First Priority of the Greater Jackson** area presents a "pre" SEE YOU AT THE POLE rally on Sept. 11 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Rapids on the Reservoir. Featured will be contemporary Christian artist Becca Jackson and Cheryl Wolfinger, speaker. For more information, contact the office at (601) 353-3499.

**Palestine Church, Raymond**, will host the "Singing Robinson Family" of New Albany, on Sept. 11. A fellowship meal will be held at 5 p.m. and the music at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 922-4333.

**Ladies' Bible Conference**, ages 15 and up, will be held at Salem Heights Church, Laurel, on Sept. 24 and 25. Registration on Friday will begin at 5 p.m. with a meal served at 5:45 p.m. The conference will be held from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Saturday with a brunch at 10 a.m. Registration fee is \$5. To make reservations call Patti Thames, (601) 649-1832; church office, 763-7571; or Nina Benson, 428-1084.

**Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg:** Sept. 12-15; Sunday, homecoming; Sunday School, 9 a.m., worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, discipleship training, 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:45 a.m., lunch served, and 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, Brandon, evangelist; L.W. (Wade) Murphy, Plantersville, worship leader; John Cockrell, pastor.

**Highland, Senatobia:** Sept. 15-19; 25th anniversary; Wed.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., 4 p.m.; Sunday, regular morning services and 5 p.m.; featured will be seven former pastors; for more information, call (601) 562-4287.

**Lincoln Road, Hattiesburg:** Sept. 17-19; speakers are Fri., 7 p.m., Bobby Shurden; Sat., 7 p.m., Jerry Doggett; and Sunday, 11 a.m., Joe Campbell; Mike Herrington, music; L. D. Golmon, pastor.

**Calvary, Braxton:** Sept. 19-22; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Charles R. Burnham, guest speaker; Jeff Wedgeworth, music; Maurice Bryant, pastor.

**Escatawpa, Escatawpa:** Sept. 26-29; Sunday, worship, 10:50 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Donnie Guy, Gulfport, preaching; Bob Chichester, Biloxi, music; Greg Johnston, pastor.



**Youth from Magnolia Church, Laurel**, who recently participated in State Bible Drills are (from left) Stephanie Houston, Lara Williams, Katie Caldwell, Jessica Houston, Kelli Hicks, and Emily Wilson.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Temple, Petal:** Sept. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Wed., 6 p.m.; Dan Raley, Alabama, evangelist; Tim Nelson, Petal, praise leader.

**Damascus, Hazlehurst:** Sept. 20-24; services, 7 p.m.; speakers are Pat Bufkin, Mon. and Tues., and Clarke Stewart, Wed.-Fri.; Reggie Bridges, music.

**Grace, Philadelphia:** Sept. 26-29; Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Sonny Adkins, director of evangelism, Mississippi

Baptist Convention Board, speaker; Randy Cuchens, Newton, music; Dennis Duvall, pastor.

**Renfro, Carthage:** Oct. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sonny Adkins, director of evangelism; Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, speaker; Oster Daniels, pastor.

**Cliff Temple, Natchez:** Sept. 19-22; Sunday, lunch at noon; Sun.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Howard Peak, Washington, evangelist; Donnie McIlwain, music; B. Don Womble, pastor.

## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/MUSIC.** Send resume to: First Southern Baptist Church, P.O. Box 146, Pearlinton, MS 39572. Phone (228) 533-7313.

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**GROUPS - CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT,** Eureka Springs, Ark, for front seats at The Great Passion Play, plus lodging, recreation, and meals, all for just \$35.00 each! Free information - 501-253-8418.

**PARADISE LANES:** Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

**FOR SALE:** 1993 Metrotrams Mini-Bus, 25 passenger - Rear and front A/C - Ford 460 EFT Engine, \$25,000 - Mileage 90,000. Phone 601-763-7571.

**FOR SALE:** Grand Concert Kawai Piano, 9 foot one inch, Ebony Satin finish, perfect condition, beautiful, kept in climate-control storage. Retail for \$78,000.00 asking \$25,000.00. Call day 228-863-0822 night 228-255-6536.

**PASTOR POSITION AVAILABLE.** FBC Marshall, Texas. Phone 903-938-9981 or fax 903-938-3279.

**GROUPS VISIT TILAPIA BASKET,** 241 Goodluck Rd., Petal, MS. Tour working fish farm then enjoy all-you-can-eat meal. Unique opportunity to taste the type of fish many believe Jesus fed the multitudes. Call 601-583-6786 or 601-582-5891.

**FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME** — Tallahassee needs a husband-wife team to be primary residential staff for the girls home. Excellent salary/benefits. Work for 2 weeks on duty, 1 week off. Come minister in the lives of children! Call Pam at 1-850-878-1458.



The office of Gulf Coast Association, Gulfport, was dedicated on July 25. Ernie Sadler, director of missions, Jackson Association, was guest speaker. Pictured cutting the ribbon are George Holifield, chairman, building committee; Bobby Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association; and Don Ball, moderator.

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 dinner Friday evening,  
 and conference materials)

For more information call  
 601-366-8433.

Registration deadline is  
 September 26, 1999.



## HOMECOMINGS

**Sylvarena, Wesson:** Sept. 12; 101st anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish luncheon, noon; 1 p.m. service; Tim Webb, former pastor, preaching.

**First, Okolona:** 150th anniversary. The theme for the celebration is "Remembering the Past ... Rejoicing in the Future." Former pastors, staff members, and music directors will conduct services on Sept. 19, Sept. 26, and Oct. 3. On Sept. 19, Roy McHenry will be the featured speaker; Jim Futral will lead the service on Sept. 26; and James Ruffin will bring the message on Oct. 3. William R. Lewman is pastor.

**Friendship, Aberdeen:** Sept. 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, 12:30 p.m.; Bob Sexton, Texas, speaker; Terry Hurt, Arkansas, music; Todd Bowen, pastor.

**Clifton (Scott):** Sept. 12; services, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; 1:30 p.m., song service; M. K. Wallace, former pastor, speaker; Marshall Lum, pastor.

**Furrs (Pontotoc):** Sept. 12; services, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; 1:30 p.m. service with Harrisburg Quartet; Greg Herndon, former pastor, guest speaker; Lester Mason, Tupelo, music; Walter Simmons, pastor.

**Damascus, Hazlehurst:** Sept. 19, 175th anniversary; James White, speaker.

**Lighthouse, Richland:** Sept. 12; 9:45 a.m., Sunday School, high attendance day; 11 a.m., worship with Jason McCarty, gospel singer, and Ralph Fuller, former pastor, preaching; dinner on the grounds at noon; service at 1:30 p.m.; Sammy J. McDonald, pastor.

**Tillatoba (Yalobusha):** Sept. 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Sonny Moore, former pastor, speaker; and Janet Ramage, former worship director, music; covered dish lunch at noon; 2 p.m. service, speakers will be Mike Ramage, and former pastors: Randall Ashley, Billy Mitchell, Glenn Sullivan, Rick Glidewell, James Edwards, and Fred Lawrence.

**New Providence, Hazlehurst:** Sept. 26; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall followed by afternoon program; Wilbur Webb, former pastor, speaker.

**Siloam, West Point:** Oct. 9-10; 150th anniversary; Saturday, singing at 4 p.m. and dinner in fellowship hall, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-noon; covered dish at noon; Clifton Perkins, Clinton, guest speaker; Payton Myers, interim pastor.

**New Providence (Leake):** Sept. 19; worship, 10 a.m.; covered dish lunch at 11:30 a.m.; certificate will be presented from the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission for 127th anniversary; and there will be an afternoon program; Smith Sanders, pastor.

**Renfro, Carthage:** Sept. 19; 11 a.m.; Oster Daniels, pastor, speaker.

**First, Helena:** Sept. 12; services, 10 a.m., with dinner to follow in fellowship hall; Ernest Sadler, director of missions, Jackson County, speaker; Joey Hagwood, pastor.

**Twin Lakes, Walls:** Sept. 12; 25th year; 10 a.m., Aaron Lewis, speaking; Terry Carver, preaching at 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; Ralph Stovall, interim pastor.

## MC offers ACT review

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education will offer review courses for the ACT Assessment. Four review sessions will be offered in preparation for the Oct. 23 test date. Each session will cost \$15. For additional information about the sessions, contact Mary Lea Nations at (601) 925-3264 or E-mail at continuing-ed@mc.edu.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



A group of volunteers from Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa, recently returned from a two-week mission trip. They helped to build a church for the people in Luzilandia, Piaui in Brazil. Paulo Rogerio is pastor. Pictured are Greg Johnston, pastor; Jennifer S., former resident at the Baptist Children's Village; Eugene Hamilton; Mark Toomer; and John Weaver.

Music evangelist Steve Walker, a native of Magee, is available for revivals, concerts, and banquets. He is currently serving as part-time minister of music at Strong River Church in Pinola and is music director for Simpson Association. To contact him, call (601) 847-4375. The address of his website is [www.stevewalker.org](http://www.stevewalker.org), which features information on his



Walker

ministry as well as ministry references.

Tyrone Clay Turner was licensed to the ministry on Aug. 22 at Derma Church, Calhoun County. He plans to attend Blue Mountain College this fall. Pictured (from left) are Turner and Chris Aldridge, pastor.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

### NAMB KNOWS NEED

Editor:

I read with interest the letter "Get Priorities Straight" in The Baptist Record of August 12. The writer said that the vote was taken to emphasize starting new churches in a number of American cities, especially focusing on reaching minorities. It was stated that many Baptist churches are in those areas now, but not Southern Baptist churches.

The writer seemingly feels that the only reason the North American Mission Board (NAMB) wants to begin new Southern Baptist churches there is simply to have a Southern Baptist church there. He also stated that there are places in foreign lands with no Christian witness at all.

I feel that there must be a need for an evangelical witness in the areas that the NAMB wants to begin new churches or the Board would not want to go into the area.

I was serving in Illinois many years ago. Our church was the only Southern Baptist church in an area of 55,000 people. Yes, there were many churches of different denominations there but most were at a standstill — no outreach, satisfied, etc. There was a need for an evangelical witness there.

The writer must realize that the NAMB knows the need in North America and the International Mission Board (IMB) knows the need elsewhere. As far as the IMB turning down some candidates for mission service on some grounds or the other because of limited funds; that's not the fault of the IMB.

Jim Burke  
Waynesboro

### PRIORITIES ARE STRAIGHT

Editor:

I attended the just completed Southern Baptist Convention, where a vote was taken to emphasize starting new churches in a number of American cities, especially focusing on reaching minority populations in those cities. I believe our priorities are right where they should be.

A recent letter to the editor criticized the convention for taking this action, citing that "most of these cities have Baptist churches already operating in them." What the writer failed to point out was that today's cities are increasingly populated by second- and third-generation Americans who are not comfortable in traditional Anglo congregations or the language churches of their parents. The writer also failed to mention that our country's cities are growing. We are quickly moving from a rural society to an urban society. This does not mean we should ignore rural America. It simply means we need to also focus on where the vast majority of people are — in the cities.

Furthermore, simply because a city has established churches does not necessarily mean these cities are "evangelized." With the greater percentage of our cities population being lost, it is hard for me to view them as "evangelized."

Our spiritual priorities are straight and we are not competing with our fellow Baptist groups in America. In fact, the Southern Baptist Convention works closely with many other Christian groups and parachurch organizations at home and abroad in order to reach the world for Christ.

R. Scott Savell  
Louisville, Ky.

### SOUL-STIRRING TRIP

Editor:

I am sure there have been many trips taken this summer by church groups, but I don't think anyone had a more soul-stirring one than we of the 49-Plus Choir of First Church, Waynesboro.

Our group left Waynesboro for Washington, D.C. on July 26 for a five-day stay. We arrived on scheduled and proceeded to the Iwo Jima Memorial to see the Military Tattoo. On the way there one of our members suddenly collapsed with a heart attack. Within a matter of seconds we were surrounded by Marines, police, paramedics, and from out of nowhere a

civilian EMT immediately begin to give him CPR and in doing so saved his life.

In less than 15 minutes our friend was on his way to the hospital. About that time a young man barely out of his teens saw our trouble and asked everyone to join hands in a prayer circle. Thinking back I realize this is most unusual that such a young person would even notice this group of older people, but he did and offered a most sincere and comforting prayer for all of us as well as our hurt member.

I know that some people would say these were just ordinary people, but we will always remember the Iwo Jima and the two "people/angels" who ministered to our group that day.

Our friend fortunately recovered, though he is still in guarded condition.

As the only F.A.I.T.H. team member on this trip I have learned that God puts us where he wants us at the right time. Had this attack occurred anywhere else I have no doubt that our friend would not be with us today.

Marjorie M. Giles  
Waynesboro

### WHY SILENT NOW?

Editor:

I have waited patiently to hear response to the articles concerning the new Bible trans-

lations. How far are we willing to go? Has anyone stopped and listened to what has been said?

Kenneth H. Stephens, president of Broadman & Holman (B&H), said, "Up until now, every English translation of the Bible has been a tradeoff between accuracy and readability."

David R. Shepherd, vice president of Bible publishing for B&H, said, "Some recent translations have reinterpreted the Bible to make it consistent with current trends and their own way of thinking. . . . Current trends in Bible translation have been a real wake-up call for everybody who's concerned about preserving the integrity of Scripture."

If I understand them correctly, all new translations have taken away from the Holy Scriptures in some way. Supposedly, their newer translations will correct all the mistakes.

Beside the issue over readability and accuracy, I am alarmed that we would counsel with over 20 other denominations. Do we not still believe, as Baptists, the people of the Book, that the Bible doctrines that we hold dear are true?

Brethren, we stopped Zondervan from publishing the "gender neutral version." Why are we silent now, when once again, the integrity and accuracy of the Holy Word of God is being attacked?

Mike Powell, pastor  
First Church, Stonewall

## First Church, Biloxi, to sell property; plans underway for new I-10 location

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The congregation of 154-year-old First Church, Biloxi, has voted to sell its property to neighboring Beau Rivage casino and resort after nearly five fruitless years of attempting to market the beach front property so the church can begin building at its new location off Interstate 10.

"We certainly would have preferred a less controversial purchaser, but that did not materialize with a single offer from 1994 (when the congregation voted to move) until the present," said pastor Frank Gunn.

Although speculators could have made a "straw" — or indirect — purchase and then transferred the property to the casino, Gunn said the church's leadership believed such approaches lacked integrity.

"We decided to deal directly with Beau Rivage," he explained.

Gunn said although some members will undoubtedly leave the church over the sale, the majority of the congregation is looking forward to better serving the Biloxi community at the new location.

"We feel there is going to be phenomenal growth in the new location compared to the difficulty of holding our own or even going down in our present location. This move will enable us to reach many more people as we build today for tomorrow," he stressed.

According to a formal statement released by the church, "After careful prayer and consideration, the First Baptist Church of Biloxi voted overwhelmingly in 1994 to relocate for a variety of reasons, some of which are as follows:

◆ After considering the cost of renovating our present facility in order to bring it up to code

and satisfy our needs, we felt building a new facility would be a better use of our resources.

◆ We were essentially land locked at our present location with little or no opportunity to expand. (Property owned by Beau Rivage already hems in the church on the south and east sides, Gunn said.)

◆ The demographics of our area were changing with the advent of gaming/gambling in that it was becoming more commercial and less residential with more people moving northward and away from our facility.

◆ We desired to position our facility in a location whereby we could meet the future needs of our congregation as well as the city of Biloxi and surrounding areas. With the (city's) recent annexation of 34 square miles, we will be strategically located in the center of the city and poised to serve the needs of a rapidly expanding community."

On August 22, the statement reports, the church congregation voted by an 80% majority to accept the Beau Rivage offer.

"Our plans have been made with much prayer over the past nine years. Throughout this process the Lord has directed our steps. As best we can discern with hearts that seek to please him, this step is further direction from him," the statement pointed out.

The statement stressed that the church congregation will continue to meet for about 18 months at the old location while the new facility is being built.

Present state law prohibits gambling on properties Beau Rivage acquires around the casino; the properties will likely be used for parking, hotel accommodations, administration, or other activities.

The new location on Interstate 10 will be the fourth home of First Church, Biloxi.



## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Called to deliverance

Exodus 13:17-22; 14:26-31

By Jerry L. Smith

I love the old saying, "If you see a turtle on a fence post, you can rest assured that he didn't get there by himself." That statement illustrates the Israelites' situation as they left Egypt. In a showdown reminiscent of JFK and Castro, Pharaoh relented to Moses' request and set God's people free. Then Israelites set out on a cross-country miracle adventure.

At times we all need a miracle; a financial miracle when our funds are depleted; a vocational miracle when our jobs are downsized; a physical miracle when our health has disintegrated.

So what is a miracle?

According to Herbert Lockyer, a miracle is "a work wrought by a divine power for a divine purpose, by means beyond the reach of man." I think the exodus would fit Lockyer's definition, don't you?

But HOW did God deliver the Israelites? How does he deliver us when the storms of life threaten to drown our spirits and shipwreck our souls?

**Departure (13:17-18).** The first step in deliverance involves trust. The Israelites had to trust that God would help them hurdle the barricade of imprisonment.

What Moses could not do by persuasion, God did in

power! When Moses exhausted all of his human resources, God stepped in and extended heavenly reserves. When the uncircumcised lips (6:12) of Moses spoke, Pharaoh (finally) heard the voice of God.



Smith

You need to know that God is in the habit of turning barriers into blessings, but you've got to learn to trust. When you find yourself with your back to the wall, then you need to bow up, get prayed up, and be ready for God to bust up the avalanche of opposition that threatens to bury you.

**Direction (13:19-22).** The second step in deliverance involves sensitivity. When God led the children of Israel by a pillar of fire/cloud, they stopped when it stopped and proceeded when it advanced. They were sensitive to the leadership of God.

How do you discern the leadership of God? According to Henry Blackaby, co-author of the popular study *Experiencing God*, the Christian can discern the leadership of God by listening to the Holy Spirit, reading the Bible, praying, interpreting circumstances, and consulting the church body.

In the midst of your crisis, have you sought counsel from your pastor or other Christian friends? Are you digging into the Word and mining out nuggets of spiritual truth? Have you asked for your church's intercession so you can anticipate God's intervention?

The will of God for your life is neither a mystery to be solved nor a code to be broken. God is speaking to you, but are you sensitive to his voice? Stop waiting for a blinding light or booming voice to know what to do. Apply some spirit-guided common sense and get moving!

**Deliverance (14:26-29).** The third step in deliverance from your crisis involves courage. The Israelites stepped onto that dry seabed with a courage forged by previous experience. God had brought them this far, and he was not about to negate the providential care that he had exercised up to this point. Do you have that kind of courage? You'll never be delivered from your crisis if you don't.

If you are determined to be cynical of God's power and devoted to supernatural skepticism, then throw up your hands and throw in the towel. Your chances are slim to none, of ever seeing a miracle. But if you'll learn to trust God in your circumstances, endeavor to listen for his voice, and commit to stepping out in courage, then you'll look back and wonder what all the fuss was about.

Smith is pastor of First Church, Summit.

## LIFE AND WORK

### Angels: what they do

Ps. 103:20-21; Matt. 13:39b-42; Mark 13:26-27; Acts 12:7-9, 11; 27:23-24

By Tom Atwood

Though some will find it difficult, believers must reject the idea that all of life is governed by either natural forces, impersonal fate, or blind luck. There is a Christian alternative: God is actively involved in caring for his world. One of the means through which God governs and cares for his children is through the ministry of angels. Angelic activity reminds us that we need to understand the realm of the supernatural as well as the natural, so we ask, "What do angels do?"

**Angels worship God (Ps. 103:20-21).** Their worship includes praising God, obeying God, and serving God, doing

his will, as the psalmist indicated. The worship of angels is dramatically portrayed in Isaiah 6 where the prophet enters the temple and is conveyed into the awesome presence of God. The Lord is "high and exalted." Above his throne are angelic beings, seraphs with six wings. "With two wings they covered their faces," not looking upon the aura of glory that is God's. "With two they covered their feet," for they stood on holy ground. And, "with two they were flying," to carry out the will of their creator while crying, "holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:1-3). The highest purpose of every creature, animal, human, or angelic is to worship



Atwood

God. When we worship, we join with angels in the exaltation of our God.

**Angels are messengers (Acts 27:23-24).** Paul, a Roman prisoner, was being transported to Rome. In a terrible storm, his ship was gravely threatened. On board, most thought they would perish until Paul assured them that God had sent a message by an angel who told him that they would all survive the shipwreck.

Angels as God's messengers are seen in the entire vast scope of biblical revelation. To Abraham, God sent the message of hope and judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah by angels (Genesis 18:19). They carried messages of victory to Joshua (Joshua 5), hope to Zacharias, promise to Mary (Luke 1), encouragement to Joseph (Matthew 1), and a future to John (Revelation 1).

Christians need a sensitive ear to God's message. Usually

this comes from the Bible, Christian teaching, or the inner witness of the Spirit but God is not limited to the "usual." Sometimes God does speak through angels.

**Angels help (Acts 12:7-9, 11).** While imprisoned by Herod, Peter experienced an angelic ministry. An angel came to him by night and supernaturally delivered him from prison. How encouraging to know that God's angels are available for our help. Angelic help should be reassuring for God's child and provide another good reason to trust in the Father and his care.

**Angels gather the saints at Christ's return (Mark 13:26-27).** When he returns, Jesus will utilize the angels "to gather his elect... form the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens" (v. 27b). See also Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; and 2 Thessalonians 1:7. Angels have a major role in those events

accompanying Christ at his return. What glory that our salvation should be consummated by assistance of angels in the presence of God.

**Angels: agents of final judgment. (Matt. 13:39b-42).** In the parable of the weeds, Jesus explained that the weeds are "the sons of the evil one" (v. 37) and that angels will throw them into the fiery furnace. The severity of God's judgment is sobering and a reminder that our holy God can and must condemn sin. Knowing the reality of God's judgment through angels should remind believers that God also blesses his people through angels.

Always remember that angels carry out the will of God. For those who refuse him there is the certainty and inescapability of God's wrath. For those who receive him there is abundant and eternal life.

Atwood is pastor of First Church, Oxford.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Serious worship

Leviticus 8:1-10:20

By Sylvia Fleming

"Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water..." (Leviticus 8:6), indicating God's unwillingness that anyone should consecrate himself. Consequently, Moses acting on behalf of God, conducted the ordination that began the Aaronic priesthood.

First, the washing had to take place before the ordination. The necessity of washing in the Aaronic order of the priesthood is symbolic of washing in the New Testament economy. Aaron could not consecrate himself and neither can anyone now bring himself into the priesthood. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but... [in] his

mercy he saved us, by the washing of [the Word]... by the renewing of the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5). Thus, a person must be washed by Jesus, the living word, then come into the "holy priesthood, to offer... spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5).

Once the washing took place, the priests were clothed. Next to the body, they wore a coat of fine linen typifying righteousness and breeches composed of fine twine. Then came the girdle, a loosely woven belt four fingers wide, of fine embroidered linen that wrapped around the breast, beginning just above the elbows and hanging to the ankles. Next,



Fleming

the turban, the covering for the head, was made of long thick strips of linen. Then another covering came down to the forehead (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book III, 7).

In addition to these, the high priest wore the blue robe of the ephod which reached the feet and was belted with similar fabric and decorations of the former. The latter had threads of gold running through it. To the bottom of the robe pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet hung alternating with golden bells. The ephod itself was a many-colored, cloth garment hanging over the shoulders covering both front and back. On the shoulders were two onyx stones set in gold inscribed with "the names of the children of Israel" (Exodus 28:9-10) — six on one, six on the other. The "breastplate of judgment" (Ex. 28:15-29) was a seven-inch-

square pouch that held the "Urim and Thummin," two stones used in seeking God's will. It is thought that one stone represented yes, the other no.

On the outside of the breastplate were 12 precious stones; a name from the 12 tribes of Israel was engraved on each. On the shoulders and in his heart, the high priest carried each Israelite lovingly into the presence of a holy God (William Varner, *Jacob's Dozen*, pp. 85-87). Just as the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies for Israel, Jesus Christ, the believer's High Priest, is in the presence of a holy God, interceding for the believers. "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands... but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us..." (Hebrews 9:24).

God prescribed order for the sacrifices made to him and a particular means for one to approach him. On the very first day Aaron served as high priest, he had to

face the death of his two sons. Whether it was their approach, means of conducting worship, or personal behavior; whether rebellion or ignorance, they disregarded God's holiness and perfection. Terrible judgments are brought against those who choose to add to or subtract from the worship, work, word and will of God. He is holy, orderly and "not the author of confusion..." (1 Corinthians 14:33).

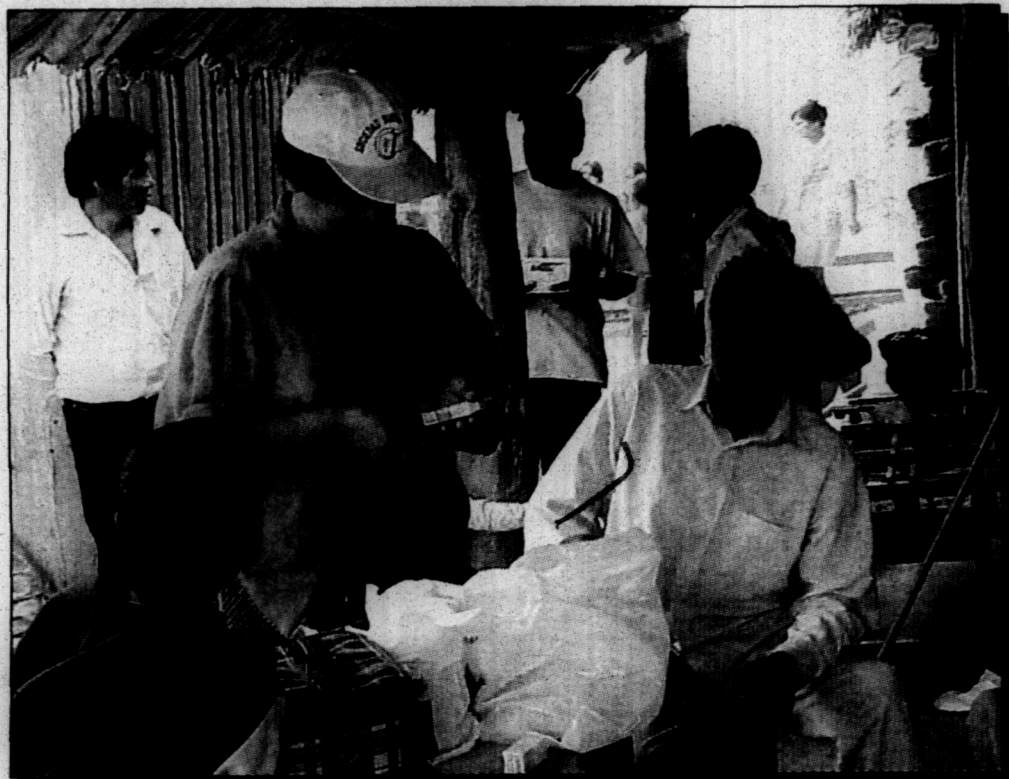
God expected holy living from the Israelites, the priests, and the high priest, and provided the laver for daily cleansing. So God now expects daily sanctification from the believer. God provided a perfect high priest in Jesus Christ who made a sacrifice once at the cross and it was finished. Now, we must "confess our sins, [and God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Fleming is a member of Bond Church, Neshoba Association.



# Bolivian wildfire victims receiving aid

ASCENSION DE GUARAYOS, Bolivia (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries and Bolivian Baptists are witnessing and ministering to at least 3,000 left homeless by wildfires.



**WILDFIRE REFUGEES** — Teresa Sandoval, a Bolivian Baptist nurse, volunteered to minister to victims of the August wildfire that destroyed Ascension de Guarayos, Bolivia. She tended cuts and burns and gave parents medicine for children suffering from conjunctivitis. Food and clothing purchased with Southern Baptist relief funds were distributed to families needing help. (BP photo)

The fires, usually set in August by farmers and ranchers clearing land for cultivation, got out of hand because of drier than usual weather and a shift in wind direction. Some 700 homes were destroyed or damaged in the fires.

"Families that have lost everything have taken refuge in the six school buildings in Ascension," reports IMB missionary Tom Martin, a native Mississippian. "In order to be able to restart classes, the government has set up tent camps in three places in the city."

One camp, housing 400 to 600 people, is across the street from a Baptist church. The civic official in charge of organizing relief efforts has asked Baptists to administer it.

Baptists loaded a truck with food and other goods purchased by Southern Baptist disaster relief funds. Also on the truck were clothes donated by evangelicals of many denominations from the town of Montero. A Baptist farmer donated 200 pounds of rice.

The Bolivian Baptist Convention sent a later shipment of 5,000 tracts and several hundred Bibles.

Martin and journeyman missionary Trey Wooten — also a native Mississippian — along with eight Bolivian volunteers, distributed tarps, mattresses, and care packages to the 26 evangelical families who lost their homes.

Teresa Sandoval, a Bolivian Baptist nurse, was one of the volunteers who came to help with medicines, Martin said.

Martin and a Bolivian Baptist missionary also met with representatives of the different evangelical churches in Ascension. "There was a great spirit of unity in the room as we talked about the future and how we would cooperate to meet needs," he said.

The team of Southern Baptist missionaries seeking to reach the Guarayo people group are planning a six-month human needs project that will include not only

administration of the camp but also projects for buying seed and tools for the coming planting season.

Six to eight U.S. volunteer teams of nine to 15 people each also will be requested.

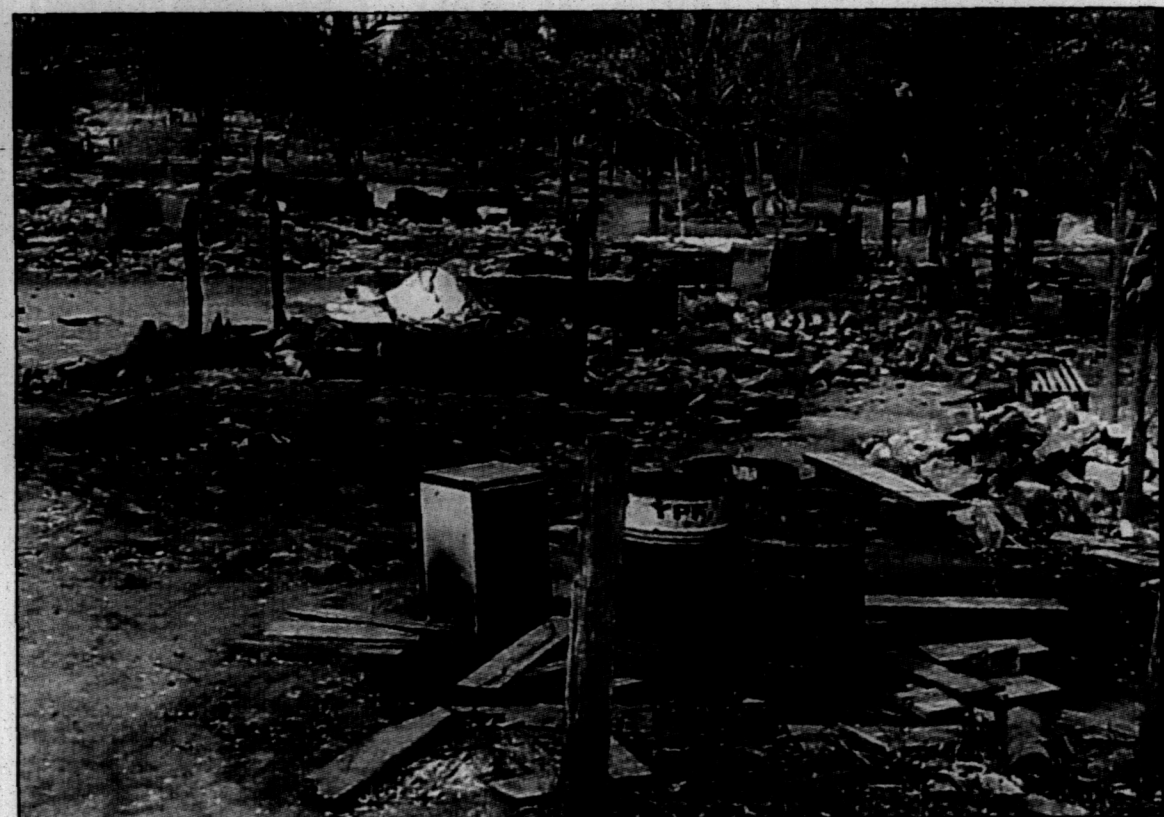
"These teams will do a variety of jobs — medicine, cooking, carpentry and building, prayer walking, and children, youth, and women's activities," Martin explained. "Our team hopes to take advantage of the opportunity to witness to those in the camp."

"Thank you all so much for your prayers. We have felt them every step of the way."

"Let me ask for prayer for the people who have been devastated by this fire," Martin added. "The trauma is in their eyes."

"I am working to get people in the area who can primarily love folks. As much as anything else, they need to be loved. Pray that Christ's love will shine through."

Donations earmarked for the Bolivian relief effort can be mailed to Men's Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Mark check "For Bolivian Disaster Relief."



**BURNED OUT** — At least 3,000 people were left homeless by wildfires that swept Ascension de Guarayos, Bolivia, in August. Southern Baptist missionaries and their Bolivian Baptist coworkers are ministering and witnessing to families who lost their homes in the fire. (BP photo)

## Device to filter television profanity

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Watching popular movies and television programs without the threat of a profane word ruining your fun may sound like a miracle in today's culture, but recall the Red Sea parted and the whale swallowed Jonah.

A new invention being sold in LifeWay Christian Stores replaces offensive audio and is helping heal a raw nerve with families and churches fed up with entertainment unfit for their children's ears.

Curse Free TV is a small computer that filters curse words from television, separate videocassette recorders, satellite dishes, and cable box devices. While not a perfect method to safeguarding what children see and hear, it blocks profanity and other objectionable language, including taking the name of God in vain, from most network programs and videos.

It also eclipses traditional Christian product lines since it works from a moral standpoint anyone can appreciate, religious or otherwise.

Gary Loftin, manager of the LifeWay Christian Store in Knoxville, Tenn., told a Knoxville News Sentinel reporter that requests for the curse word censor are far-reaching and second only to calls about upcoming installments of the top-selling "Left Behind" fiction series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins.

Loftin has sold the \$149.95 box to buyers as far away as Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Corpus Christi, Texas. After he was pictured with the product in newspapers across the nation, calls poured in — many from television station managers whose viewers wanted more information.

"This is really an item for Christians, Muslims, basically everyone," Loftin told the Sentinel. "What family wants their 8-year-old to hear filth?"

That was the situation facing Dewey Plaster from Idaho Falls. With children ages 10, 6, and 2, Plaster and his wife, both Sunday School teachers, were frustrated with the foul language heard far too frequently, including network television.

"After we had our first child, we realized how quick they are to pick up words," Plaster added. "And some television shows you think are safe for children to watch really aren't."

"It's nice to sit with the kids in front of the TV and not worry that they're going to hear something bad," Plaster said. "We want to set the right example for our kids. Our prayers have been answered."

Curse Free TV President Jonas Robertson helped develop the device to search hidden close-captioning text for more than 100 offensive words.

Once the word is detected, the box momentarily mutes the sound and replaces it with acceptable words and phrases.

For instance, Curse Free TV replaces 21 offensive words in "Mrs. Doubtfire" and 32 in "Kindergarten Cop."

The occasional slip-up occurs during live programming when closed captioning is not available or when closed caption text is misspelled.

Unlike the V-chip, which totally blocks an R-rated program and doesn't work with video movies, the profanity-censoring device cleans up R-rated language. Parents must continue to show caution, however, with nudity and violent images.

Curse Free TV is available in 82 LifeWay Christian Stores across the country and at its Internet store at [www.lifewaystores.com](http://www.lifewaystores.com).

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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BEF UICXIIJOW XE DI

NWBCC EIIT FXI, UICXII-

NO OWSK OWXN?

YSWE ICIIIE: OHIEOL-NXQ

Clue: J = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Thirteen: Thirty-Nine.